

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Applicant's amendment of March 31, 2004, amended certain existing claims and introduced new claims 11-14. However, the Office Action only addressed claims 1-10. Accordingly, the status of claims 11-14 is not known and the Examiner is invited to address these claims.

Claim Amendment

Claim 1 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim an embodiment of the invention. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification, for example, at claim 1 as originally filed and at Fig. 3.

Obviousness Rejection

Claims 1-7 stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Patent No. 6,157,103 to Ohta et al. ("Ohta") in view of Patent No. 4,740,737 to Schiavon. The rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 1, as amended herein, is directed to an electric motor for a linear drive system. The motor houses a stator, a rotor and a threaded shank. The housing includes an injection molded part within which the stator, together with the stator core and the phase windings, are embedded. The claim also recites "a linear guide is integrated with the injection molded part of the motor housing, the linear guide configured to accommodate and guide the threaded shank." Fig. 3 shows an exemplary embodiment where linear guide 72 is integrated with injection molded part 70. The linear guide 72 accommodates and guides threaded shank 56 through linear guide 72 and stop 73.

The references fail to disclose or suggest these features.

Ohta discloses a stator which is embedded in an injection molded part. However, Ohta does not disclose a linear guide integrated into the injection molded part. While Ohta alleges a rotor hub acting as a linear guide to accommodate the threaded shank, it fails to disclose or

suggest a threaded shank that is guided within the rotor hub and a motor hub (52) having a corresponding inner thread which interacts with the outer thread of the rotor shank (56). Finally, the reference is silent as to the claimed recitation of a linear guide integrated with the injection molded part of the stator (*i.e.*, the part in which the stator is embedded.) This claimed feature is shown in the exemplary and non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 3 where the injection molded part (70) is integrally formed with the linear guide (72) in order to accommodate and guide the threaded shank (56).

Schiavon fails to address Ohta's deficiencies. Schiavon is cited by the Office for allegedly supporting the proposition that the power supplied to the electric motor can be DC or multiphase. Schiavon neither discloses nor suggest an injection molded part for housing the stator core and the phase windings, much less, a linear guide integrated therewith and configured to accommodate and guide the threaded shank.

For at least these reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the art of record. Each of claims 2-6, 10 and 12-14 is deemed patentable by the virtue of its dependence from claim 1 and additional reasons for patentability of said claims will not be proffered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 8 has been amended to include the recitation of claim 7 (now cancelled). Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and is deemed patentable by the virtue of this relationship. Applicant respectfully submit that claims 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

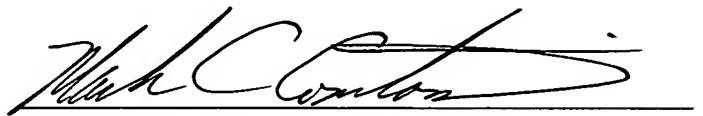
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

While an extension of time is not deemed necessary, the Office is requested and hereby authorized to charge the appropriate extension-of-time fees needed to maintain the application pending against Deposit Account No. 04-1679 to Duane Morris LLP.

If any point remains that is deemed best resolved through a telephonic conversation, the Office is hereby requested to contact the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,



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